

Amendments to the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1 to 18 as presented in the underlying International Application No. PCT/DE2003/002844.

Please add new claims 19 to 35 as indicated in the listing of claims below.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-18 (cancelled).

Claim 19 (new): A fuel cell system comprising:

- a fuel cell;
- an intermediate electrical accumulator;
- a common supply connector for coupling the fuel cell and intermediate electrical accumulator to an electrical consumer;
- a sensor for sensing an operating parameter of the fuel cell;
- a switch arranged and configured to be controlled to be in one of an open state and a closed state, the open state electrically isolating the fuel cell from the intermediate electrical accumulator and the common supply connector, and the closed state electrically coupling the fuel cell to the intermediate electrical accumulator and the common supply connector; and
- a pulse generator control circuit for controlling the state of the switch between the open state and the closed state, by using pulses having a duty factor variable as a function of the recorded operating parameter.

Claim 20 (new): The fuel cell system of claim 19, wherein the switch comprises a semiconductor switch.

Claim 21 (new): The fuel cell system of claim 20, wherein the semiconductor switch comprises a MOSFET.

Claim 22 (new): The fuel cell system of claim 19, wherein the switch is thermally coupled to the fuel cell.

Claim 23 (new): The fuel cell system of claim 22, wherein the fuel comprises a stack of fuel cells and the switch is arranged at an end of the stack.

Claim 24 (new): The fuel cell system of claim 19, wherein the pulse generator control circuit is arranged and configured to control the state of the switch between the open state and the closed state as a function of a single operating parameter.

Claim 25 (new): The fuel cell system of claim 19, wherein the pulse generator control circuit is arranged and configured to control the state of the switch to be in the open state as a function of a first operating parameter and to control the state of the switch to be in the closed state as a function of a second operating parameter.

Claim 26 (new): The fuel cell system of claim 19, wherein the pulses of the pulse generator control circuit have a frequency of between 0.1 and 50 kHz.

Claim 27 (new): The fuel cell system of claim 19, wherein the sensor comprises a voltage sensor for recording a terminal voltage of the fuel cell.

Claim 28 (new): The fuel cell system of claim 27, wherein the pulse generator control circuit is arranged and configured to control the state of the switch to be in the closed state when the voltage sensor senses an event of exceeding an upper limit voltage and to control the state of the switch to be in the open state when the voltage sensor senses an event of undershooting a lower limit voltage.

Claim 29 (new): The fuel cell system of claim 19, wherein the sensor comprises an internal resistance sensor for recording an internal resistance of the fuel cell.

Claim 30 (new): The fuel cell system of claim 29, wherein the pulse generator control circuit is arranged and configured to control the state of the switch to be in the closed state when the voltage sensor senses an event of exceeding an upper limit resistance and to control the state of the switch to be in the open state when the voltage sensor senses an event of undershooting a lower limit resistance.

Claim 31 (new): The fuel cell system of claim 19, wherein the sensor comprises a pressure sensor for recording a hydrogen partial pressure of the fuel cell.

Claim 32 (new): The fuel cell system of claim 31, wherein the pulse generator control circuit is arranged and configured to control the state of the switch to be in the closed state when the voltage sensor senses an event of exceeding an upper limit pressure and to control the state of the switch to be in the open state when the voltage sensor senses an event of undershooting a lower limit pressure.

Claim 33 (new): The fuel cell system of claim 19, wherein the pulse generator control circuit is arranged and configured to control an operation gas feed line valve as a function of the recorded operating parameter.

Claim 34 (new): The fuel cell system of claim 19, wherein the fuel cell is coupled to hydrogen source reformer.

Claim 35 (new): The fuel cell system of claim 34, wherein the pulse generator control circuit is arranged and configured to control a throughput of the reformer as a function of the recorded operating parameter.